

Transcript

One minute methods – experiments

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At its most basic, an experiment is a way to discover something new or test an idea. In this sense, children themselves are avid experimenters, constantly investigating the world around them and updating their theories of how it works. Scientific experiments usually involve changing something, keeping other things the same, and then measuring the effect. We can use the results of experiments to come up with a better understating of how things work or to reject an idea as false. Sometimes controlled experiments are difficult, impossible, unethical, or illegal. In such cases we might take advantage of naturally occurring situations to test an idea. For example, to understand the effects of nature and nurture, it might be questionable to create human genetic clones, but we don't need to. We can observe identical twins, who have been separated at birth, and raised in different environments. In general, the more often an experiment is repeated with similar outcomes the more confidence we have in the results.